

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06033 212133Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02  
TRSE-00 AID-05 /064 W  
-----069041 220459Z /12  
R 212124Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8512

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EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EEWT, PEPR, PN  
SUBJECT: GOP MISSION TO EASTERN EUROPE

1. GOP ANNOUNCED THROUGH LOCAL MEDIA THAT AN OFFICIAL MISSION LEFT PANAMA AUGUST 18 FOR VARIOUS EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE MISSION IS HEADED BY PEDRO BRIN MARTINEZ, DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S EASTERN EUROPE DEPARTMENT, AND WILL TRAVEL TO THE SOVIET UNION, THE GDR, BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, RUMANIA, AND HUNGARY. THE COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP IS VARIED AND INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM PRIVATE BUSINESS AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES.

2. THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO EXPLORE NEW OPENINGS FOR INCREASED CULTURAL, TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL TIES BETWEEN PANAMA AND EASTERN EUROPE. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE GOP IS THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED PANAMANIAN EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS SUGAR, BANANAS AND COFFEE TO THAT AREA. ALSO MENTIONED WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTRACTING EASTERN BLOC BANKS TO PANAMA AND COMPANIES TO THE COLON FREE ZONE.

3. COMMENT: PANAMA'S DESIRE TO EXTEND ITS TRADE AND  
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TECHNICAL TIES TO EASTERN EUROPE IS NOT NEW. EVER READY TO EXTEND ITS HAND TO POTENTIAL SOURCES OF AID, THE GOP NOW FEELS THAT IT IS LESS CONSTRAINED TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF EASTERN EUROPE WITH THE TREATIES RATIFIED BY THE SENATE. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT BLOC CONSUMER GOODS WILL EVER CATCH ON HERE, BUT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT IMPORTS OF ITEMS SUCH AS HEAVY MACHINERY AND OTHER

DURABLES WILL INCREASE, ESPECIALLY IF PANAMA CAN SWING  
ATTRACTIVE BARTER DEALS I.E. BANANAS FOR TRACTORS.  
HOWEVER, THERE REMAINS THE GENERAL FEELING THAT WESTERN  
GOODS ARE MORE RELIABLE AND SERVICE MORE AVAILABLE. IT  
WOULD TAKE A MAJOR PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE THE  
AVERAGE PANAMANIAN CONSUMER'S (AND, TO A SLIGHTLY LESSER  
EXTENT, GOP OFFICIALS') LOW OPINION OF BLOC  
MERCHANDISE.

4. SEPTTEL REPORTS THAT THIS MISSION MAY PRESAGE  
DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE WITH SOVIET UNION. JORDAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOP MISSION TO EASTERN EUROPE  
**TAGS:** EEWT, PEPR, OVIP, ETRD, TECH, PN, XH, (MARTINEZ, PEDRO BRIN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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